



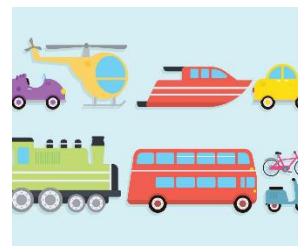
Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 19th April 2024 – Volume 25

Welcome Back

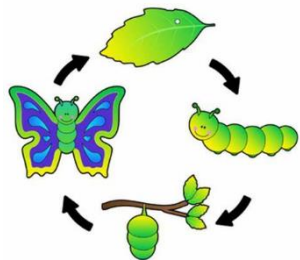
It is great to have all of the children back in Nursery and School following the Easter break for our final term as Ox Close Federation. They have all settled back into routine well and we have been thrilled to welcome new children to the Nursery. The Summer Term is always a busy term, with children taking part in lots of different learning activities, visits, the Y6 residential and assessments taking place at different points. It will be even more exciting with the addition of events to celebrate the end of Ox Close. We look forward to seeing parents/carers at different events across the term. We had added as many diary dates as possible to the newsletter – always handy to pop on the fridge or screenshot and keep on your phone.

What is happening in Nursery?

This half term, our planned learning will be around the topic of transport and journeys. We will be finding out about the different vehicles we can travel in, as well as all the different reasons we make journeys. Lots of us will be heading off on holidays soon, but we will be using some of our favourite stories, like The Train Ride, to go on journeys in our imaginations. This is what we love most about books, reading can take you to all sorts of places! Now that the weather is improving, we will be venturing into the woods again this half term to see how they have changed since our Autumn Walk. I wonder what changes we will see? Later on in the half term, we will be using a map to follow the journey that Little Red Riding Hood took to her Grandma's house, we will also be making our own maps and planning a route to Springmoor Grange using a map.



What is happening in Reception?



This half term in Reception we will be learning about life cycles and watching caterpillars make their amazing transformation into butterflies. We will be learning about the artwork of Kandinsky and using his art as inspiration for artwork of our own, using circles. We will be incorporating mark marking and writing opportunities into play and have transformed our roleplay into "deconstructed roleplay", removing the constraints of needing to use the area in specific ways and instead giving it more flexibility for the children to use as they wish. In maths, we are continuing to support children with subitising skills. They loved inventing their own games last term so this term we will be supporting them with ways of creating rules and recording scores.

What is happening in Years 1 and 2?

In Science, we will be exploring plants, seed life cycles and how to successfully grow plants from seeds. Our investigation this term will give us the opportunity to discuss the ideal environments for plant growth. In History, we will be learning about how life has changed for children in Spennymoor over the last 100 years. Our focuses are toys, home and school life and we will be using photographs to compare these aspects with life. In Art, we will be developing our understanding of what architecture is and we will learn what an architect does. We will explore a range of architectural buildings from around the world and we will learn about the architects Hundertwasser and Zaha Hadid. We will develop our joining techniques in order to make our own architectural buildings from cardboard. During PE, we will be looking at fitness and how it can make us feel as well as learning about net and wall games. We will be practising attacking and defending skills and use these to play small team games.



What is happening in Years 3 and 4?

In 3/4 we have lots of exciting topics this half term. In History, children will be learning about the Anglo-Saxons. We will consider when the Anglo-Saxons were in Britain, why they came to Britain and what changes they brought with them. By analysing sources, we will explore the impact that the Anglo-Saxons had on society at the time. In French, we are looking at fruit and vegetables. The children are going to understand and say fruit and vegetables. They will be able to also count them. Using their current knowledge, the children will be able to ask for fruit and vegetables. In Art, children are going to explore formal drawing and sculpture skills like line, mark making, shape, form, balance and structure, but they also just as importantly explore how it feels to make art. Children will start by seeing how artists sometimes help us learn about ourselves by drawing parallels with other lives. Within PE, the children are going to take part in 2 topics - fitness and cricket. In fitness, the children will take part in a range of activities that explore and develop different areas of their health and fitness. They will be given opportunities to work at their maximum and improve their fitness levels, recognising how the activities make them feel. Within cricket, children explore their understanding of the principles of striking and fielding. They develop an understanding of the different roles of bowler, wicket keeper, fielder and batter. Our Science topic this half term is 'how does your garden grow?' We will be looking at parts of a plant and finding out a little more about their functions. In RE, pupils will learn how different religious beliefs have an impact on how people think, behave and act towards others.



What is happening in Years 5 and 6?

The final term is always a busy one for our Year 5 and 6 children. Our Year 6 children are busy working very hard in preparation for their SATs – keep up the hard work everyone! In RE this half term, the children will be learning about what Christians believe about God. In Music, we will be looking at chords. We will listen to chords in a variety of music genres and make some chords of our own. In Science, the Year 5s will be completing the topic 'The Circle of Life', which covers life cycles of animals and plants. The Year 6 children will be using identification keys to classify living things. In PE, our two topics will be Cricket and Yoga. We are hoping the sun shines so we can make use of the school field! In RSE, the Year 5s will be looking at the importance of looking after money and budgeting, and the Year 6s will be looking at safety and first aid.



Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Elliott Y	Year 4	Teddy B
Year 1	Ezra M	Year 5	Aria H
Year 2	Emily F	Year 6	Scarlett W
Year 3	Paisley P		

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 95.9% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.9%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.1%.

Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am, with the gates opening from the new time of **8:35am**. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 333 late minutes.



Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 1 st May	9am – Reception – Parent/Carer Phonics Workshop
Thursday 2 nd May	Federation Closed – Polling Station
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 5 Visit to Whitworth Park
13 th – 16 th May	KS2 SATs Week
Friday 17 th May	Wear Green for Mental Health Day
Tuesday 21 st May	Year 6 Visit to Life Centre in Newcastle
Thursday 23 rd May	Nursery – Butterflies Stay and Play
Thursday 23 rd May and Friday 24 th May	Year 3/4 Captain Chemistry Workshops
Friday 24 th May	3:15pm – Close for Half Term Break
Monday 3 rd June	8:35am – Children return to Nursery and School
Tuesday 4 th June	Year 5 Visit to Life Centre in Newcastle
3 rd – 14 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
10 th – 14 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Thursday 13 th June	Year 1/2 Zoo Lab Workshops
Friday 14 th June	Nursery Graduation Photos
Monday 24 th June	Reception Visit to Auckland Castle Project
Friday 28 th June	Federation Closed – PD Day
Thursday 11 th July	Year 3/4 Visit to Theatre
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Celebration Trip
Wednesday 17 th July	10am and 2pm – Nursery Graduation and Celebration
Thursday 18 th July	9:30am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 19 th July	2:15pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 19 th July	3:15pm – Ox Close Federation Closes
Monday 9 th September	Springmoor Grange School opens to children

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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On Tuesday we had a very exciting opportunity in school. We had Richard O'Neil an author come into our class and tell us a very exciting story.

3/4D



In History, we have started our new topic all about the Anglo Saxons. We ordered some key events.



Make Make Wash



In English we have been acting out our new text 'The King of the Fishes'.

